

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7335

BILL NUMBER: HB 1350

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 5, 2004

BILL AMENDED: Jan 29, 2004

SUBJECT: Certification of Health Care Interpreters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Aguilera

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill creates the Commission on Health Care Interpreters and Translators. The bill provides that the Commission is staffed by the Indiana Minority Health Coalition. It provides for the certification of health care interpreters and health care translators.

Effective Date: July 1, 2004.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) This bill would establish a 14-member advisory commission. The Commission would meet quarterly or on the call of the chairperson; it would expire on June 30, 2005.

The Commission is established to: (1) write bylaws concerning the operation of the Commission, (2) certify health care interpreters, (3) certify health care translators, (4) maintain a registry of health care interpreters and translators, (5) establish rules to process and handle complaints and grievances, and (6) set fees for certification that are sufficient to cover the costs of the Commission including: (a) the costs of the certification process; (b) the costs of maintenance of the registry; and (c) the general expenses of the Commission.

The Indiana Minority Health Coalition, Inc., would be responsible for (a) providing staff support, and (b) paying the expenses of the Commission. Members of the Commission who are state employees are entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the member's duties, as provided in the state policies and procedures established by the Indiana Department of Administration and approved by the State Budget Agency.

Background Information: The Indiana Minority Health Coalition is a non-profit organization organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes. Its primary focus is improving the health of Indiana's ethnic/racial minority population. The Coalition currently receives approximately \$2.3 M in

Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement Fund money from the state. Current statute requires the Coalition to use the money for minority health initiatives. The Coalition will use a portion of the \$2.3 M to fund the Commission on Health Care Interpreters and Translators.

Explanation of State Revenues: The bill requires the Commission to establish fees for both initial and renewal certification applications. As a result, the state would experience an increase in revenue. Any increase in revenue is dependent on (1) the number of initial and renewal certification applications the Department receives annually, and (2) the amount of the initial and renewal certification fee.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Health.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Indiana Minority Health Coalition website, <http://www.imhc.org/>.

Fiscal Analyst: Sarah Brooks, 317-232-9559.